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17 May 1986

TO: ALL EMPLOYEES OF FBIS GULF BUREAU

FROM: Bureau Chief

1. As many of you are already aware, the U.S. Congress has enacted legislation intended to eliminate the Federal Government's large budget deficit over the course of the next few years. Like all agencies of the government, FBIS must share a portion of the budgetary limitations that this process entails. The Director of FBIS and the Chief of Operations Group, after studying a number of alternatives for actions to meet these new circumstances, have directed me to relay the following message to you:

"Budgetary reductions make it imperative that FBIS close one of its bureaus. Gulf Bureau is by far the most expensive FBIS bureau of its size and, following much discussion in Washington, we have decided with sincere regret that we must close the bureau this summer. We expect bureau operations will cease as of 31 July.

"The decision to close the bureau is in no way a reflection on the Gulf Bureau staff, who have performed at a consistently high level and have created a real mission for the bureau in the past few years. Your dedication and ability have been noted often and appreciated always.

"We will be able to offer some members of the monitorial staff positions at other FBIS locations, but unfortunately cannot do so for everyone. Your bureau chief will discuss FBIS career possibilities with each of you individually and will also work with the U.S. Embassy to see whether jobs are available there. It will take time to work out arrangements for everyone, and we hope that you understand that neither the bureau chief nor FBIS management has all the answers yet. We know this will be a traumatic experience for many of you, but we will try to work with you to make closure as painless as possible."

2. I know this announcement comes as a shock to all. I can only add my own expression of sincerest regret to that of the Director and the Chief of Operations that circumstances have made it necessary.

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3. The closure decision will be implemented in phases as portions of Gulf's coverage responsibilities are transferred to other FBIS bureaus. This process will begin in mid-June; it is management's goal to complete the coverage transfer process and end operations here by 31 July. I hope and trust that many of you will find it advantageous to continue working at Gulf Bureau until that date.

4. You will certainly have many questions and, to the extent possible, I will answer those of general concern at this afternoon's meeting. As mentioned in the Director's message, I will also be meeting with each of you privately in the near future. Because of the relatively short time available for these consultations and the large number of people involved, I regret that I cannot continue the "open door" policy that I have maintained up till now. I will be making appointments with each of you as early as possible to discuss your personal situations. Please understand that, for the sake of good order, we must all abide by these scheduled appointments insofar as possible.

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Chief, Gulf Bureau

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